

WINTER
WATER BIRDS
IN FUERTEVENTURA

Avocet	28
Bittern	7
Coot	25
Crake, Little	24
Spotted	23
Curlew	53
Dotterel	35
Duck, Marbled	11
Ring-necked	21
Tufted	19
Dunlin	39
Egret, Little	4
Gadwall	18
Gannet	3
Godwit, Bar-tailed	56
Black-tailed	55
Garganey	15
Greenshank	48
Gull, Adouin's	59
Black-headed	61
Great Black-backed	63
Lesser Black-backed	62
Slender-billed	60
Yellow-legged	58
Heron, Grey	5
Night	8
Purple	6
Kittiwake	64
Knot	43
Lapwing	36
Mallard	17
Moorhen	25

Osprey	22
Oystercatcher	26
Pintail	
16	
Plover, Golden	34
Grey	33
Kentish	32
Little Ringed	31
Ringed	30
Pochard	20
Puffin	69
Redshank	46
Spotted	47
Ruff	52
Storm-petrel	2
White-faced	2
Sanderling	44
Sandpiper, Common	51
Curlew	40
Green	49
Wood	50
Shearwater, Cory's	1
Little	1
Shelduck, Ruddy	10
Shoveler	13
Skua, Great	57
Snipe	37
Jack	38
Spoonbill	9
Stilt, Black-winged	27
Stint, Little	42
Temminck's	41
Stone-curlew	29

Swift, Pallid	70
Plain	70
Teal	14
Tern, Black	68
Common	65
Gull-billed	67
Sandwich	66
Turnstone	45
Whimbrel	54
Wigeon	12

L	45-56	C
	25-30	L
W	112-126	C
	58-67	L

Day over sea :-

C long glides, relieved by
3-4 flexible wingbeats;

L more flapping flight with
more, quicker wingbeats

Breed on islands (L in
Canaries)

Food C often in small flocks
foraging

L seen hanging above
sea with wings raised &
feet dangling, snatching
food

Voice C at dusk & dawn
noisy, crow-like; L on dark
nights high 'ka-**ki**-kukukur-
kaa'

CORY'S SHEARWATER

Calonectris diomedea

Pardela cenicienta



LITTLE SHEARWATER

Puffinus assimilis

Pardela chica

tahoce



L	15-16	S
	19.21	W
W	37-41	S
	41.44	W

{W breeds on Selvagens in burrows}

S flight is fluttering & busy

W sails low over sea on stiffly outstretched wings (wh are large, butterfly-like)

& uses long legs to kick off fr surface

W is best identified by its white underparts, long legs & bill

Voice fr nest: S purrs at night w interspersed grunts (as stomach-rumbling)

W 'koo, koo, koo,...' w squeaky falsetto 'kyi' interspersed

STORM PETREL

Hydrobates pelagicus

Paino comun

Bailarin, alma mestre,
cebito,
pajaro cebo



WHITE-FACED STORM PETREL

Pelagodroma marina

Paino pechialbo

Baileran, Bailadero



L 85-97
W 170-192

Food fish

Flight quite fast, shallow & uniform wingbeats, short glides interspersed

Dives for fish from great height, throwing wings back just before striking surface

Ad mainly white w black wingtips & head tinged yellow

Juv grey-brown speckled white, developing to ad plumage over 2-3 years

Voice loud, grating sound at colonies

GANNET

Morus bassanus

Alcatraz atlantico



L 55-65
W 88-106

Fresh & salt water areas

Food fish, frogs, insects

Slim & elegant; legs black
w yellow toes (uniquely);
bill dark, long & straight
(some lightening at face
end during courtship)

Flight wings nearly
centrally placed, legs
projecting showing yellow
toes

Voice mostly silent away fr
colonies; on rising
sometimes Rook-like 'aah';
greeting call loud 'da-**wah**';
at colonies hoarse, hard
calls & gargling 'gulla-
gulla-gulla...'

LITTLE EGRET

Egretta garzetta

Garceta comun



L 84-102 (neck
extended)
W 155-175

Mainly seen by fresh water

Food mostly fish

Waits patiently & still for
prey by water; rests on one
leg in shallow water

Head retracted in flight &
often when standing; bill
straight & powerful,
dagger-shaped & greyish-
yellow; legs greyish-yellow
or grey

Flight slow, irregular
wingbeats w wings strongly
bowed & high up, toes
folded

Voice call at dusk flying to
roost loud, harsh &
croaking 'kah-**ahrk**', wh
may have sing-song
echoing quality.

GREY HERON

Ardea cinerea

Garza real



L 70-90 (neck
extended)
W 110-145

Forages in shallow water in
gaps among reeds, or in
open wet meadows

Food fish, frogs & insects

Dark-looking in field;
standing often with bill
pointing up; bill bayonet-
shaped, long and narrower
than G H; legs yellow;
plumage mostly grey w
brown;
Flight slightly jerky
wingbeats, toes often
spread

Voice in flight gruff 'krrek',
sim to G H but shorter,
deader & not disyllabic

PURPLE HERON

Ardea purpurea

Garza imperial



6

L 69-81
W 100-130

Food fish, frogs & insects

Sim to G H but smaller,
thicker neck (hunched into
shoulders), loose throat
feathers & shorter legs

Flight quicker wingbeats
than G H, thick front-end
and trailing feet; plumage
looks all ginger-brown at
distance

Rarely seen on ground
(hidden in reedbeds) will
point head up when
alarmed there

Voice best identification; m
booms w low, far-carrying
foghorn-type 'whump'
repeated 3-5 times w 2.5
sec intervals; other call
'graoh', deep and repeated

BITTERN

Botaurus stellaris

Avetoro comun



L 58-65
W 90-100

Food fish, frogs & insects

Active mainly at night,
roosting communally in
trees during daylight

Short-billed & stocky, legs
pinkish-yellow

Flight (usually dawn or
dusk flying to & from roost)
compact outline, slightly
raised body & drooping bill,
stiff wingbeats

Voice noisy at colony w
various raucous, croaking
notes; flight-call coarse,
nasal, frog-like 'quark'

NIGHT HERON

Nycticorax nycticorax
Martinete



W 120-135

Needs shallow, sheltered, open water, or brackish pods

Food molluscs, crustaceans, small fish

Long bill w spatula-shaped tip, Plumage all-white w bushy nuchal crest; legs dark

Foraging bill held lowered in water & head swung fr side to side whilst wading forward

Flight neck extended, fast wingbeats w glides

At rest body held horizontal, head hunched

Voice silent

SPOONBILL

Platalea laucorodia

Espatula



L 58-70
W 110-135

Often seen flying at great height

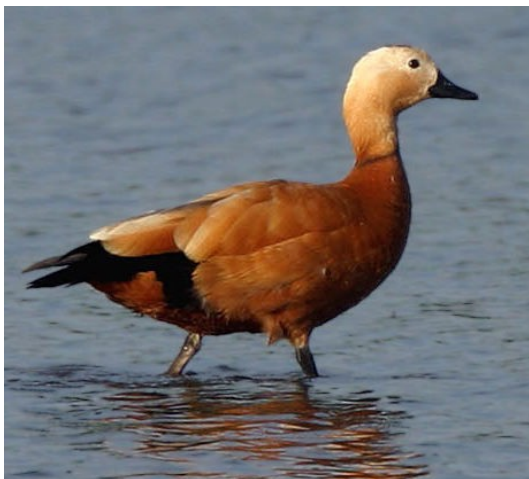
Bill black, male only has narrow black neck-collar
Juveniles resemble adult female

Voice nasal honking quality, hollow rolling 'ahrrr' also heard. In flight loud trumpeting 'ang' and 'ah-üng' recalling Canada Goose & even donkey

RUDDY SHELDUCK

Tadorna ferruginea

Tarro canelo



10

L 39-42

W 63-70

Dabbling duck, rare.
Found in lowland, shallow,
well-vegetated water

Surface-feeder, takes off
fr water easily
Small & slim, slender dark
bill, sexes appear similar,
juveniles more diffuse and
buff-white blotches

Voice usually silent

MARBLED DUCK

Marmaronetta

angustirostris

Cerceta pardilla



L 42-50

W 71-85

Grearious, both coastal & freshwater habitat; dabbler

Food vegetarian, often grazes arable land in winter

Short-neck, round large head, small bill & pointed tail

Flight fast...note white belly

& (m only) white patch on upper forewing; takes off fr water surface easily

Juv as f plumage w some speckling on underparts

Voice f loud, whistling gliss note 'wu, **wee**-oo(rr)' & more subdued 'wip...wee...wep-wü' coarse 'rrah', 'ra-**kaah**'; m has flight-call 'karr karr...'

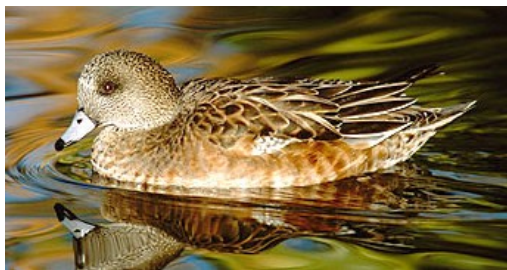
WIGEON

Anas Penelope

Anade silbon



male



female

L 44-52
W 73-82

Mainly near fresh water, in pairs or small parties

Surface-feeder, takes off fr water easily, wings making loud whoofing noise

Long broad bill obvious in flight & swimming, f has larger, more orange bill than m, whose bill is grey
Rests on one leg, head tucked under wing

Voice nasal knocking call of m when flushed
'took-took ... took-took...'
(can be monosyllabic); f wheezy, muffled 'kerr-aesh' also short, hoarse quacking, falling in strength & pitch

SHOVELER

Anas clypeata

Pato cuchara



male



female

13

L 34-38

W 53-59

Fresh- & sea- water
habitats, often in large
flocks o/s breeding season

Surface-feeder, but
frequently upends, takes
off fr water easily rising
steeply

Smallest duck; f resembles
Garganey when swimming
but bill small w orange at
base, head less marked &
chin/throat not so pale

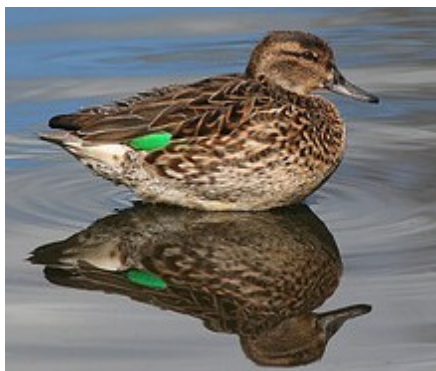
Voice m clear ringing
whistle 'treel'; f quacks
feeble & nasal '**peeht** pat
pat' high then falling in
pitch; also f hard, fast
'krek-ekekek' when pursuit
by m is distressing

TEAL

Anas crecca
Cerceta comun



male



female

L 37-41
W 59-67

Dabbles or skims surface,
rarely upends (cf Teal)

Plumage m distinctive
white crescent over eye to
nape of neck, in flight
sharp contrast bet white
belly & dark breast
Ad f resembles f teal but
larger size, whiter throat,
longer straighter grey bill &
more striped-looking head
distinguish

Voice m display call dry,
wooden rattle 'prrrrrrrrr'
(like fingernail across
comb); f rather silent but
nasal 'ga, ga-ga, ga...' &
a feeble, high-pitched
quacking

GARGANEY

Anas querquedula

Cerceta carretona



15

L 51-62 (excl elongated
tail feathers of m approx
10)

W 79-87

Surface feeder, takes off from surface w/o running

Flight fast, outer wings swept back a little, long neck extended and m tail feathers obvious

Ad f plumage sim to Mallard but longer, pointed tail

Voice m has short, clear whistle 'krrü' as Teal but lower-pitched; f quacks sim Teal but harder & more like '**quaek-quaek**-quak-quak-quah-qua...' as Mallard

PINTAIL

Anas acuta

Anade rubado



male



female

16

L 50-60

W 81-95

Ubiquitous, the ancestor of domestic duck

Surface-feeder, takes off from surface w/o running
Large, stocky build, bill large & yellow, legs orange
Flight wingbeats quite quick but bird looks heavy

Voice m soft, nasal low 'rhaeb' often repeated when alert on water; f quacks loud series of hoarse notes, dying off after the first one or two '**quaek-quaek**-quak-quak-quah-qua...' & in anxiety slower harder quacks at even pitch

MALLARD

Anas platyrhynchos

Anade real



17

L 46-56

W 78-90

Ad m small white speculum
(lump of sugar), dark-grey
bill

Ad f sim Mallard but small
white speculum, whitish
throat & orange along
cutting edge of bill

Both have yellow legs

Voice m short, croaking
'ahrk'; f quacks similarly to
Mallard ie '**quaek-quaek-**
quak-quak-quah-qua...' but
often harder & more
mechanical

GADWALL

Anas strepera

Anada Friso



L	40-47
W	65-72

Gregarious out of breeding season, forming large dense flocks

Dives for food, rarely upends; heavy body, short wings mean take off from water after running on surface

Voice m in flight at night nervous, quick accelerating, falling in pitch 'wip wee-weewüwüp'; f call growling 'krr krr krr...', slighter faster & higher-pitched than Pochard

TUFTED DUCK

Aythya fuligula

Porron monudo



male



female

19

L 42-49

W 67-75

Gregarious; dives, upends
& dabbles for food
Runs on surface before
flight

Bill grey, (often two-tone)
long w concave upper ridge
running into sloping
forehead w smoothly-
peaked crown; eye red-
brown
Wings in flight have light
and dark grey underneath

Voice rather silent but f has
loud, repeated purring
'bree-ah', often in flight

POCHARD

Aythya ferina

Porron comun



L 37-46

20

Dives for food, rarely
upends; heavy body, short
wings mean take off from
water after running on
surface

Small, short-bodied, head
rather large w forehead v
high & steep, crown
peaked at hind-crown
creating small indentation
bet crown & nape;
bill slate-grey w white
bands, tail long & often
raised;
eye m yellow, f dark w
white eye-ring and line
behind

RING-NECKED DUCK

Aythya collaris

Porron de collar



21

L	52-60
W	152-167

Habitat freshwater lakes,
also near coast by brackish
water or even salt

Food fish, caught in talons
after dive

Hovers, tail spread, with
heavy wingbeats over
water, dives feet-first for
fish

Voice During aerial display
(undulating flight high up,
feet dangling) whistles
mournfully 'u-**eelp** u-**eelp**
u-**eelp**...'; alarm hoarse,
sharp 'kew-kew-kew...'

OSPREY

Pandion haliaetus

Aguila pescadora
guincho



L 23-26 (bill 3-4.5)

Food plant material, small animals

Found in soggy sedge, not reedbeds; hard to flush, slips away unseen even in low sedge

Bill short, straight, red; legs greenish w long green toes; on land moves cautiously one moment, nimbly the next; flight fluttering, dangling legs & white edge to wing

Voice song gently upslurred & sharp wolf-whistle (first part only) every second; at night 'hu**itt**, hu**itt**, hu**itt**,...' audible at 1-2 km on still nights- afar can recall dripping water, nearby cracked, grunting secondary note heard

SPOTTED CRAKE

Porzana porzana

Polluela pintoja



23

L 17-19

Shy, prefers reedbeds

Small; long primary projection (above tail); bill yellowish w red base; m has blue-grey underbody, neck & face but f buff, grey-white w a little blue-grey on head

Voice m at night, far-carrying (often audible at 1-2 km) nasal, yapping 'kua', repeated slowly at first, then faster & faster, finally dropping in pitch to a stammer; f short phrase w nasal high-pitched tone 'kua-kua-kvarrr'

LITTLE CRAKE

Porzana parva

Polluela bastarda



male



female

24

L 36-42 C

27-31 M

C – dark grey body, white bill, toes long & lobed

M – dark, longer tail, held high & jerking when walking, long green legs & long toes;
bill red with yellow tip;
jerks head when swimming

Voice C ‘kowk’ or ‘kruke’ repeated; spring nights ‘pe pe-**eu**’ in flight

M short ‘kyorrl’,
annoyed ‘ki-keck’ & ‘krek-krek-krek’ NB at night in flight

COOT

Fulica atra

Focha comun



MOORHEN

Gallinula chloropus

Polla de agua

Patito



L 39-44 (incl bill 6.5-9)
W 72-83

Breeds on open flat coasts,
roosts communally in
winter

Nest scrape on ground,
beach not usually grass

Food cockles, mussels,
worms, insects

Long, straight orange-red
bill & black & white
plumage

Legs pink (juv greyish-pink)

Flight direct with quick
wingbeats

Voice flight call shrill 'peep'
or 'k-peep'; in group; open
bill pointing down 'kip kip
kip-kip-kip...' to 'kliklikli...';
in flight 'plee-ah' in time
with slow deep wingbeats

OYSTERCATCHER

Haematopus ostralegus

Ostrero comun



L 39-44 (incl bill 6.5
excl leg projection 14-17)

Lagoons, saltpans,
estuaries

Food mainly insects

Elegant; bill dark, needle-
fine & straight; very long
reddish-pink legs; plumage
black & white (f v dark-
brown & white) m having
more black on head

Flight head & legs
extended; flicking wing
action; all-black underwing
& pointed wing distinctive
Juv dull brown, pale legs

Voice silent except when
breeding but predators
chased w loud grating
'kreet kreet...'

BLACK-WINGED STILT

Himantopus himantopus

Ciguenuela



L 42-46 (inc bill approx
8; exc leg projection
approx 10)

W 67-77

Estuaries, mudflats, open
seashores

Food insects, small
crustaceans; opened bill-tip
sweeps fr side to side
through water or soft mud,
finding prey by touch; also
pecks at mud surface &
upends when swimming

Wary; bill black, slender &
upcurved; legs long & pale
blue; f has less black on
head, more curved bill

Voice call loud piping 'klüp
klüp klüp...' w
characteristic ring; used
also for alarm

AVOCET

Recurvirostra avosetta

Avoceta



L 38-45
W 76-88

Bare or sparsely vegetated ground

Food mainly insects

Large yellow eye & black-tipped bill reveal when still
Most active dusk to dawn
Walks stealthily; runs with body held horizontal and head hunched back;
distinctive in flight with strong black & white wing pattern, shallow beats of long, stiffly bowed wings

Voice rising, whistling 'küü-**liie**' or 'kur-li-**lii**'; alarm rapid 'kü-vü-**vü**'; also thin 'kiiie'

STONE CURLEW

Burhinus oedichnemus

Alcaravan comun

Pero-lui, Pedro-luis



L 17-19.5
W 35-41

Inland water margins & coasts; may form groups

Food freshwater & marine invertebrates

More compact & full-chested than Little RP; legs orange (LRP pinkish grey-brown) & bill mostly dark; white wing-bar prominent (thin at most on LRP); clear white over eye

Voice call soft, distinctly disyllabic '**poo**-eep'; alarm monotonous piping 'peep'; song alternates bet 'tee-**too**-e tee -**too**-e...' & hurried 't'**weea**-t'**ww**ea...' w slow, bat-like display circuit

RINGED PLOVER

Charadrius hiaticula

Chorlitejo grande



30

L 15.5-18
W 32-35

Freshwater, rather than coastal, margins

Food mainly insects

Obvious yellow orbital ring, all-black bill, pale brownish or pinkish grey-brown legs (no black face-markings)

Voice from lone bird in flight short, piping '**piu**'; alarm strident 'pree'; occasionally 'rerere...'; song in daytime slow-winged bat-like aerial circuit, or heard at night, is quick, hard 'pri-pri-pri...' and slow, rhythmic, buzzy '**cree-a, cree-a,...**'

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER

Charadrius dubius

Chorlitejo chico



L 15-17

Coastal

Food insects, crustaceans, worms

Smaller, longer-legged & thinner-billed than Ringed Plover; flat-crowned, broad, large head; legs light brown in winter

Juv paler NB head & neck markings

Voice calls on ground quiet rolling 'dr'r'rp' & ascending soft whistle 'bew-it'; flight-call short 'bip' or 'bipip'; song (rare) mix of '**che-ke che-ke che-ke**' & rolling, guttural 'drruur**ree-rre-rre**'

KENTISH PLOVER

Charadrius alexandrinus

Chorlitejo patinegro



L 26-29
W 56-63

Tidal flats & adjacent
freshwater pools

Food marine worms,
molluscs, crustaceans

Bulky body, large head,
heavy bill; hunched
posture, feeding action
ponderous

Juv spotted back, buff
underparts w black
'armpits' clear in flight

Voice vocal: call distinctive,
mournful, trisyllabic whistle
'peee-**uu**-ee'

GREY PLOVER

Pluvialis squatarola

Chorlito gris



L 25-28
W 53-59

Lowland fields, often in
flocks

Rarely seen wading,
prefers drier ground

Shy & wary

Smaller & daintier than
grey Plover w narrower,
more pointed wings &
faster wingbeats

Juv sim to winter ad

Voice plaintive, flat whistle
'püü' or 'tüü(u)' in flight or
repeated on ground when
alarmed; when alighting
'per**purrr**lya- per**purrr**lya-
per**purrr**lya-'

GOLDEN PLOVER

Pluvialis apricaria

Chorlito dorado comun



L 20.5-24

Fields in singles or small groups

Food insects

Smaller than Golden Plover, shorter neck & wings, large head for body-size, smaller bill; breast pale w paler band (necklace) above; buff stripe above eye; dark yellow legs

Juv as ad winter but more distinct markings, paler legs

Voice flight-call & on take-off soft, rolling 'pjürr' descending; contact-call 'kwip-kwip'; f call repeated whistling 'pwit pwit pwit' about 2 calls/sec in flight w shallow, shivering wingbeats

DOTTEREL

Charadrius morinellus

Chorlito carambolo



35

L 28-31
W 67-72

Farmland & marshes, often
in large flocks

Food worms & insects

Crest long & wispy
Flight shows strongly
rounded wing-tip & consists
of flappy beats, light below
& dark above... 'flickering'
effect when in flocks
Juv stumpy crest, paler
back

Voice highly vocal, often
heard at night; flight-call
on alarm shrill, breathy
'pwaay-**eech**' or 'wa**ay**-
ach'; song is
'chae-widdle**wip**, i-**wip**, i-
wip....chee-o-**wip**'

LAPWING

Vanellus vanellus

Avefria



36

L	23-28 (incl bill 7)
W	39-45

Small muddy patches, pool margins; seashores – often in small groups

Long, straight bill (twice head-length), dumpy-shaped, short-legged, crouching posture; striped head and body

When flushed zig-zags fast, towers quickly on twisting course

Voice 'catch' (like a boot pulled out of mud) on take-off; also disyllabic 'ca-**atch**' (sneeze); song long-sustained '**chip**-per **chip**-per **chip**-per ...'

SNIPE

Gallinago gallinago

Agachadiza comun



L	18-20 (incl bill 4)
W	33-36

Muddy pool margins
Skulks in inaccessible
places

Smaller than Snipe, shorter
bill (one & half head
length)

Skulking, flushes when
almost trodden on, flies up
silently usually to land
nearby; bouncing action
when feeding as if whole
body on springs (sewing
machine)

Voice rarely - quiet harsh
'gatch' when flushed;
display-flight 'ogog**ok**-
ogog**ok**-' like a distant
cantering horse, but
difficult to locate

JACK SNIPE

Lymnocryptes minimus

Agachadiza chica



38

L 17-21

W 32-36

Numerous on tidal flats or banks of seaweed

Plain brownish-grey upperparts, clear-cut pale grey breast-band contrasts with white belly; plain head; bill usually longish decurved black bill
Juv spotted belly-sides, gingery head, nape & upper breast

Voice flight-call buzzing or rolling 'chrrreet'; conversational calls from flocks rippling 'plip-ip-ip'

DUNLIN

Calidris alpina

Correlimos comun



L 19.5-21.5

Marshes & coasts often w
Dunlin

Food mainly invertebrates

Larger than Dunlin; longer,
finer-tipped & more evenly
decurved bill, longer neck
& legs, white rump obvious
in flight

Juv as ad winter but clearer
black markings on back

Voice flight-call trilling or
jingling 'chürrip' or
'kürürrip'

CURLEW SANDPIPER

Calidris ferruginea

Correlimos zarapitin



40

L 13.5-15

Pools, marshes, rivers etc

Same size as Little Stint
but longer-bodied &
shorter-legged w finer,
slightly decurved bill
Unobtrusive, prefers
vegetated to open areas to
feed w distinctive, creeping
action on flexed legs
Flies high on erratic course
Legs pale, yellowish,
shorter than LS; winter
plumage brownish
upperparts, head &
breast...beware LS
confusion

Voice flight-call when
flushed loud, trilling,
repeated 'tirr-tirr-tirr-...';
display hovering
'titititititi...'

TEMMINCK'S STINT

Calidris temminckii

Correlimos de temminck



L	14-15.5
W	27-30

Muddy edges of pools,
coastal flats etc often in
flocks, mixing w Dunlin

Small, runs round feet of
other small waders; quick
actions & pecking rate
Bill quite short, straight &
fine-tipped – gives spiky-
billed look at distance

Voice flight-call single or
repeated sharp, high-
pitched 'stit'; song in flight
or from ground weak
'swee-swee-swee-swee...'
w interruption of silvery
'svirrr-r-r'

LITTLE STINT

Calidris minuta

Correlimos menudo



adult



juvenile

L 23-26

W 47-53

Wide tidal flats, usually in flocks; smaller numbers occasionally on freshwater pools near coasts

Short-legged & plump, larger & stockier than Dunlin; bill straight, thick & short (same length as head) (but beware some have longer, slightly decurved bill)
Flight outline long-winged, short-bodied

Voice flight-call short, nasal rather soft 'whet-whet'

KNOT

Calidris canutus

Correlimos Gordo



L 18-21

43

Sandy beaches, mudflats
or pools near coast, often
in flocks; rare inland

Feeds w distinctive dashing
action running ahead of
breaking waves or more
methodically away fr waves

More compact than Dunlin;
confusion w Stints likely
but larger size, stouter bill
& distinctive lack of hind-
toe
Juv has black & white
pattern on back

Voice flight-call emphatic,
slightly liquid 'plit'

SANDERLING

Calidris alba

Correlimos tridactilo



L 21-24
W 43-49

Coastal

Food varied, uses bill to turn over stones or seaweed to obtain prey underneath

Darkish, wedge-shaped pointed bill, orange legs
Distinctive in flight
Juv as ad but more 'scaly' above

Voice flight-call chuckling 'tuk-a-tuk-tuk' & short, yelping 'k(l)ew'; alarm-call emphatic, accelerating rattle 'chu**vee**-chu**vee**-vitvitvitvitvit'

TURNSTONE

Arenaria interpres

Vuelvepiedras



W 47-53

Mainly on or near coast,
singly or in flocks; less
common far inland

Wary & noisy; red legs &
bill-base; flight shows
pointed white rump
Juv legs yellow-orange;
neck & breast streaked;
flanks & belly finely, evenly
patterned

Voice call distinctive,
musical 'teu' or
melancholy, downslurred
'**teu**-hu' or '**teu**-huhu';
alarm-call persistent 'kyip-
kyip-kyip...'; song, often in
flight, loud, musical 'tül-tül-
tül-tül-tuliiu-tuliiu-tuliiu...'
& '**leo-leo-leo**-...'

REDSHANK

Tringa totanus

Archibebe comun



L 29-33

Singly or in spring in groups on inland & coastal (less common) marshes, lagoons

Sim to Redshank but slimmer outline, longer legs & longer, finer bill w subtle downward droop near tip & red on bill on lower mandible only
When feeding wades more deeply, often swims & upends
Flight dashing fast & direct
Juv legs red, plumage dark & uniformly barred

Voice call distinctive, quick, emphatic disyllabic whistle 'chu-t!'; song in flight grinding or rolling whistle 'crrru**ee**-a crrru**ee**-a crrru**ee**-a...'

SPOTTED REDSHANK

Tringa erythropus

Archibebe oscuro



L 30-34

W 55-62

Food insects & worms but also dashes after small fish in shallow water

Larger & more heavily-built than Redshank, has longer & broader-based bill w upcurve

Bill-base & legs grey or greenish-grey

Juv sim ad winter but dark grey-brown above & breast uniformly streaked

Voice vocal...call distinctive trisyllabic whistling 'tyew-tyew-tyew' all on one note; alarm persistent 'kyu!'; song in high flight sustained, grinding 'clu-**wee** clu-**wee** clu-**wee...**'

GREENSHANK

Tringa nebularia

Archibebe claro



48

L 20-24

W 39-44

Inland, prefers pond edges,
ditches etc to open
mudflats

Sim to Wood Sandpiper but
more robust w shorter
grey-green legs

Typically sighted when
flushed unexpectedly,
flying off w distinctive call,
toes barely projecting
beyond tail & white rump
contrasting w dark wings
Juv pale neat spots on back

Voice clear, ringing whistle
'**tlu**eet-wit-wit'; alarm-call
clipping 'tlip-tlip-tlip...'

GREEN SANDPIPER

Tringa ochropus

Andarrios grande



L 18.5-21

W 35-39

Inland or coastal marshes,
shallow pools, often in
flocks

Sim in shape to Redshank
but a third smaller size &
bill length

Sim to Green Sandpiper but
grey-brown plumage,
longer yellowish-green legs
Juv sim to GS but narrow
not broad bars on tail &
pale streak above eye

Voice flight-call quick, high-
pitched whistling
monotonous 'chiff-if-if';
alarm sharp 'gip gip gip...'

WOOD SANDPIPER

Tringa glareola

Andarrios bastardo



50

L 18-20.5
W 32-35

Inland & coastal water

Strong bobbing rear body
after every quick
movement or landing (all
Sandpipers do this but less)
Horiz, semi-crouched
carriage w short neck, long
tail & short legs
Flight close over water w
quick bursts of shallow,
pulsating beats & fleeting
glides on stiffly bowed
wings

Voice vocal; flight-call
rapid, high-pitched (&
falling), whistle 'swee-
swee-swee-swee-swüü';
alarm-call 'heeeep'; song
twittering 'swidid**dii**-dide-
swidid**dii**-dide-...'

COMMON SANDPIPER

Actitis hypoleucos

Andarrios chico



L	29-32 m	22-26 f
W	54-60 m	46-49 f

Marshes, shallow pools,
estuaries, fields

Small-headed, large-bodied
look, rather long neck
(when not hunched) &
medium-length bill slightly
curved, orange at base;
legs orange

May raise mantle feathers
when feeding

Wingbeats deep & slow
giving lazy flight action w
gliding before landing

Juv as winter ad but more
buff tinge below

Voice nearly mute except
for low grunting sounds

RUFF

Philomachus pugnax

Combatiente



52

L 48-57 (incl bill 9-15)

W 89-106

Usually in flocks on coasts
or pasture

Largest wader w very long
evenly decurved bill
(longest on m); uniformly
streaked & barred grey-
brown; legs grey
Flight slow, gull-like...note
pointed white rump & dark
outer wing feathers

Voice call far-carrying
'cour-**lii**' whistle; alarm
fierce 'vi-vi-vü!'; song in
flight w shivering wings
then descending glide a
rhythmic 'oo-**ot** oo-**ot** oo-
eet trru-**ee** trrru-**eel** trrrru-
eel trrrru-**eel** trrru-**uhl**'

CURLEW

Numenius arquata

Zarapito real



L 37-45 (incl bill 6-9)
W 78-88

Coastal

Like Curlew but smaller,
shorter bill (beware f & juv
C also short bill), dark eye-
stripe & light median
crown-stripe; legs also grey
Wingbeats faster than C &
underwing looks darker

Voice loud fast whistle
'püpüpüpüpü-püpü'; song
begins like Curlew's but
breaks into bubbling, long
drawn-out trill, lacking C's
pulsating rhythm & more
woeful

WHIMBREL

Numenius phaeopus

Zarapito trinador



54

L 37-42 (incl bill 8-11)

W 63-74

Estuaries, saltings etc, also inland marshes

Sim to Bar-tailed Godwit but longer, straighter (may be slightly upcurved) bill & clear broad white wing-bar, black tail-band & notable extended head & feet giving elongated look
Bill pink-based, legs dark
Juv may have orange-buff on throat & chest

Voice flight-call quick reedy
'vi-vi've!' & 'vääh-it'

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT

Limosa limosa

Aguja colinegra



55

L 33-41 (incl bill 7-11)

W 62-72

Large flocks on some tidal flats

Sim to Black-tailed Godwit
but shorter legs & clearly
upcurved bill; in flight leg
projection short & tail
barred not solid black at tip
Bill pink-based
Juv darker than ad winter &
darkly-spotted back
plumage buff wash on neck
& breast

Voice nasal 'cew**ee**-
cew**ee**'

BAR-TAILED GODWIT

Limosa lapponica

Aguja colipinta



56

L	50-58
W	125-140

Mainly pelagic

Food mainly fish, taken
from sea surface or other
birds

Large heavy bird, very
heavy bill, powerful head &
neck

Soars sim Buzzard, floats
high on sea

Voice silent away from
breeding grounds

GREAT SKUA

Stercorarius skua

Pagalo grande



57

L 52-58

W 120-140

Sedentary, coasts and farmland

Roosts on harbour piers or flies high to secluded islands at night

Yellow legs all year, white heads (no streaking) in autumn; large red spot on bill; red or orange orbital ring

Juv black bill and pale mottled, streaked chest

Voice nasal, deep; strident 'kyow' repeated & loud when alarmed; anxiety 'gag-ag-ag' display loud clanging 'aau...kyy**aa**-kya-kya**a**-...ky**au**'

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL

Larus cachinnans

Gaviota patiamarilla



58

L 44-52
W 117-128

Coastal or pelagic

Food fish, snatched in flight
from near surface or in
deeper plunge-dives

Rare

Smaller than Herring Gull;
shorter bill, longer neck,
longer narrower wings;
flight more graceful w more
gliding; bill often pointing
down when perched

Legs grey-green, bill less
red in winter than pic
(looks black at distance)

Voice alarm 'ug-ug-uk'

AUDOUIN'S GULL

Larus audouinii

Gaviota de audouin



L 37-42
W 90-102

Coastal

Elongated head & bill
shape identify; also white
head all year; winter little
or no pink, may have pale
grey ear spot, bill and legs
pale orange

Juv has paler yellow-brown
or orange-flesh bill & legs

Voice low, dry hard 'krerr'
with strained voice; short
sharp 'kek' or 'kekekek'

SLENDER-BILLED GULL

Larus genei

Gaviota picofina



juvenile

L 35-39
W 86-99

Feeds on ploughed fields &
in towns

Not shy

In flight identified by white
leading-edge to outer wing
Bold, dark ear spot & red or
red-brown legs & bill (latter
w dark tip)

Juv brown wing-markings,
black tail-band, yellowish-
flesh legs & bill (dark tip),
head & body sim to ad
winter

Voice noisy in colonies &
when feeding in flocks;
calls strident, downslurred
'krreearr' & short, sharp
'kek' or 'kekekek'

BLACK-HEADED GULL

Larus ridibundus

Gaviota reidora comun



adult



juvenile

61

L	48-56
W	117-134

Coastal

In flight top wing dark-grey
& wing-tip black w small
white 'mirror'; under-wing
pale w black tips extending
grey
into wing

Bill is yellow w red spot,
legs pinkish-yellow

Juv has grey bill

Ad to juv takes 4 years

Voice alarm 'kyow',
repeated & loud; anxiety
'gag-ag-ag'; also deep &
nasal laughing call 'aau...
kyy**aa**-kya**a**-kya**a**-kya**a**-
kya**a**-kya**a**....ky**au**' sim to
Herring Gull & Yellow-
legged Gull

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL

Larus fuscus

Gaviota sombria



adult



juvenile

62

L 61-74
W 144-166

Coastal or large lakes

Food fish, offal, birds; robs sea ducks, cormorants etc

Largest gull, very heavy bill
In flight like Lesser B-B G,
but white mirror greater
and more white on
margin...also broader-winged

As L B-B juv matures over 4 years

Legs pale fleshy at all ages

Voice as L B-B but much deeper & typically hoarse & gruff; 'laughing' call is also slower & shorter

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL

Larus marinus
Gavion



adult



L 2nd winter
37-42

63

W 93-105

Coastal

Food invertebrates & fish,
takes fish waste from boats

Flight shows black notch in
tail; wingbeats stiff & quick
more tern-like than gull

Grey upper body shades
along wing to white with
black triangle at wing-tip
Bill yellowish, legs dark
brown

Head white w grey
hindneck & dark grey ear-
spot

Juv takes 3 years to
mature, losing black fringes
to wings

Voice noisy near colonies;
call quick nasal 'kitt- I
waake'; in flight short
'kya!'; alarm knocking 'kt
kt kt...'

KITTIWAKE

Rissa tridactyla

Gaviota tridactyla



L 34-37 (incl tail-
streamers 5-8 on adult)
W 70-80

Coastal

Food fish, which it hovers
and dives directly for

White forehead &
underparts, black bill, red
legs

Juv orange bill & legs, back
gingery fading with age

Voice noisy in colonies,
short sharp 'kit', rapid 'kt-
kt-kt-...' & typical '**kierri-
kierri- kierri-...**'

COMMON TERN

Sterna hirundo

Charran comun

Chilrro, golondria del mar,
garajao



L 37-43 (incl tail
streamers 6-9 on ad)
W 85-97

Scarce inland

Food mainly fish

Long 'pencil' bill w yellow
tip

Rapid fishing flight, forceful
wingbeats; often patrols
high up making sudden,
bold dive to catch fish; in
strong winds will feed
where waves break

Plumage fades from June
(white f'head) to Nov-Mar
upperwing frosty-grey
Juv more markings on back

Voice noisy at colonies &
when feeding; flight-call
loud, grating '**kerrick**' (like
pressing amalgam into
tooth)

SANDWICH TERN

Sterna sandvicensis

Charran patinegro



summer adult



winter adult
66

L 35-42

W 76-86

Inland & coastal

Food insects, also frogs & small mammals

Sim to Sandwich T but short, thick all-black bill, longer legs

Does not normally plunge-dive as S T but with leisurely flight hawks insects in the air, often over dry land, or swoops to pluck prey from water surface

Flight shows dark trailing edge to wing

Juv pale buff head, less clear wing markings than S T juv

Voice flight-call rising 'gur-**wick**'; alarm 'gwic-gwic-gwic'

GULL-BILLED TERN

Sterna nilotica

Pagaza piconegra



adult



juvenile

67

L	22-26
W	56-62

Marsh tern, also seen at coast

Food insects, fish

Dip-feeds or hawks insects (rarely plunging to catch fish)

Wings grey, darker towards tip & upper edge

Black cap present on ad & juv to greater or lesser extent

Legs reddish & bill dark
Juv sim ad winter but with more markings on back

Voice flight-call harsh, multisyllabic 'k'shlet' & short nasal 'klit' & '**lkee**-a'; alarm-call energetic 'ki-ki-ki...' or shrill ''kyeh'

BLACK TERN

Chlidonias niger

Fumarel comun



juvenile

L 28-34
W 34-38

Winters out to sea mainly

Food fish & crustaceans;
dives from the water
surface & 'flies' under
water, steering w feet

Parrot-like, huge powerful
bill

Head dusky-grey around
eye, dark-grey crown, and
back

Legs short, orange

Flight shows short 'chunky'
body, grey face, dark wings
w no white edge, pale
underbody

Will 'float' high up

Voice silent other than
grunts from burrow

PUFFIN

Fratercula arctica

Frailecillo comun



69

L	14-15.5	Pl
	16-18	Pa
W	36-39	Pl
	39.44	Pa

Seen almost solely in flight
- their clinging feet
unsuitable for perching

Food insects taken in flight

Pa has larger, whiter throat patch

Both otherwise pale grey-brown

Pl has pointed wingtips...Pa has blunt

Voice both shrill, ringing screams 'srriirr', Pl up- & down-slurred but Pa more clearly down-slurred & drier

PLAIN SWIFT

Apus unicolor

Vencejo unicolor

Aburrion, andorina



PALLID SWIFT

Apus pallidus

Vencejo palido

Andorina

